



"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"

## FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS

JANUARY 2021



### Important News

(1) All Monmouth County Library Branches will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

(2) The Friends of the Ocean Township Library membership drive continues... How can you help?

(A) **Dues Are Due** -- Membership in the Friends of the Library runs on a calendar year. And, while it may have seemed like 2020 would never end, we have finally made it to 2021! So, we are now collecting membership dues for the year. Membership dues are one of our major sources of funding now -- especially with our inability to hold book sales due to the pandemic. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2021 today.

Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) or directly by clicking [here](#)

**Please note:** This year for your convenience you can choose to pay your membership dues either by check/money order or via our new electronic payment option (which allows you to pay with PayPal or with a Debit or Credit Card). Simply go to our website to renew: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

(B) If you find our services, like this newsletter and our website, helpful, let your friends, family and neighbors know about the Friends of the Ocean Township Library and ask them to consider becoming a member. Simply direct them to our website or print out a copy of our membership form located on our website **renew:** [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

**We appreciate your support and thank you!**

(3) **Book Donations** -- As a reminder, although we greatly appreciate your kind intentions, we are still unable to accept any book donations at this time. But, please hold on to your donations. We hope to host our book sales later this year and we will let you know as soon as we are once again accepting donations. Thank you for your understanding.



### Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) **The Latest Numbers Are In** -- The Township Of Ocean Library has been racking up the numbers! Our library is currently averaging about 40 curbside users and 170 in person visitors each day. A special thank you to our library staff for their hard work to both keep us all safe and able to use the library's resources during this pandemic.

(2) **Our library staff has an important notice if you use the [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) database. Beginning this month, you must have a PIN to access the database.** Our library's staff has to create the PIN for library patrons (you can then change/personalize the PIN later yourself). **So if you use the Lynda database, stop by the library and request your unique PIN. You can also request a PIN remotely by calling our library branch at 732-531-5092 (Please note that you will need to have your library card number if you wish to request a PIN remotely.)** If you already have a PIN, you will just need to enter it when prompted. Keep in mind you will be required to use your PIN even to renew items.

(3) More [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com) news -- Say hello to the new Lynda.com! [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com) has been upgraded with LinkedIn Learning. With this upgrade you will now have access to Learning's entire library of 16,000 courses, including courses in French, English, German, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, English and Portuguese. Another plus? Your history will automatically transfer over to your new LinkedIn Learning account. So, none of your past courses or certificates will be lost.



#### [Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators](#)

(1) **The Township of Ocean Historical Museum** -- The museum is sponsoring a **Winter Virtual Speaker Event, "Remember The Ladies Of the American Revolution", with Joel Farkas** via Zoom on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Farkas will address the story of the American Revolution through the role of women. Topics such as health and medicine during this period and the "first" First Ladies of America will also be discussed. A Q&A session will follow Mr. Farkas' talk.

Registration if required. For more information and to register, simply go to the museum's website at [www.oceanmuseum.org](http://www.oceanmuseum.org)

**Please note: The Township of Ocean Historical Museum will not be open in January due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

(2) **The Cultural Arts Committee** -- has postponed its winter art shows due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will let you know when these shows resume.



#### [From Around Town](#)

(1) If you are experiencing difficulties coping with the COVID-19 crisis, **Monmouth ACTS** can connect you to a counselor who can provide up to six phone emotional support sessions. Call 732-542-6422 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or visit the Monmouth ACTS website at <https://monmouthacts.org> for more information.

(2) **Counseling and crisis intervention services** are also available to town residents through the **Community Services Office of the Ocean Township Department of Human Services**. To schedule a strictly confidential TeleHealth appointment with a counselor please call 732-531-2600. There is no charge for most services for Ocean Township residents, as the office is supported by both people in the town and the Monmouth County Board of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Services. You can find more information about this service at <http://oceantwp.org/Counseling>



#### [Grab A Book and Sit Awhile](#)

**Looking for a good book to read this month?** No problem! To ring in 2021 we once again are spotlighting several different ways you can locate recommended books in just about every genre.

(1) **Take the January Reading Challenge** -- For January our library's round table of suggested reading based on a monthly theme is going **BOTH in person and virtual**. This month's theme is "**The 2020 Goodreads Choice Award Winners And Nominees**". The list includes the top picks in fiction, poetry, historical fiction, mystery/thriller, science fiction, young adult fiction, horror, science and technology, etc. So, there is literally something on the list for everyone.

Debbie Bagchi (one of our library's reference librarians who normally selects the challenge book selections each month) has compiled the books that made the Goodreads list. (All of which are available on Overdrive.)

So, if you are up for exploring one or more of the Goodreads 2020 Choice Award Winners and Nominees check out the list at [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) or on our website: [www.friendsofcoastwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofcoastwplibrary.org)

**(2) Join a New Book Club -- Virtually of Course -- AARP has compiled a list of nine online Book Clubs that you can join now.** The list includes book clubs such as "The New York Public Library and WYNC Virtual Book Club," "PBS' The Now Read This Book Club," "Oprah's Book Club" and "The Los Angeles Times Book Club." To check out AARP's full list of online book clubs and learn how to join them go to: <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2020/online-book-clubs-to-join.html>

**(3) Check Out Five Books For a Lousy Year --** the year 2020 did not earn rave reviews by any stretch of the imagination, but **Bill Gates**, tech pioneer, co-founder of Microsoft, and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is an avid reader who took time to reflect on the five books that helped him weather the challenges we've faced recently. Check out Gates' picks at: <https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/1997-bill-gates-picks-5-good-books-for-a-lousy-year>

**(4) Consider Joining One Of The Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book Discussions This Month --**

On **Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** this virtual book club will be discussing "**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek**" by **Kim Michele Richardson**. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of courage, strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere -- even back home. This discussion will be moderated by Elaine Siegel.

On **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 beginning at 10:30 a.m.** the virtual book club will be discussing "**Transcription**" by **Kate Atkinson**. In this book Juliet Armstrong is sent to an obscure department of MI5 in 1940 and tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathizers. Ten years later, now working for the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past. A bill of reckoning is due, and she finally realizes that there is no action with consequence. This discussion will be moderated by Robyn Miller.

**Registration for these book discussions is required.** Simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Literature & Writing" from the drop down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each virtual book discussion description. **Internet access is required to participate.** Event access information will be emailed to you prior to the start of the event. If you have questions you can email [mcl@monmouthcountylib.org](mailto:mcl@monmouthcountylib.org)

We hope you find this spotlight helpful. Happy Reading!!



**Grab Some Popcorn & Binge Watch a Movie**

The Monmouth County Library is now offering **The Reel Movie Discussion: A Virtual Program**. You simply watch the film at your leisure and then join a virtual discussion. The January offerings are scheduled for:

**January 12, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- "Knives Out" (2019) (PG-13).** The film stars Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christopher Plummer, and Toni Collette. The discussion will be moderated by Kristen Harvey.

**January 26, 2021 from 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. -- "1917" (2019) (R).** This film stars Colin Firth, Benedict Cumberbatch, George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman. The discussion will be moderated by Lynne Myerson.

To reserve a physical copy of these films, please call the main branch of the Monmouth County Library at 732-431-7220 ext. 7222 to place a hold. Pick up is available in person or through curbside service. **Registration is required to participate in a Reel Movie Discussion.** To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Movies" from the drop down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each movie discussion description.



### Other Helpful Library Offerings

**(1) Explore The Hobbit -- The Monmouth County Library is offering Raconteur Radio Presents "The Hobbit: A Virtual Radio Play" from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 - Sunday, January 31, 2021.** One day in the early 1930s, J.R.R. Tolkien found a blank page and suddenly inspired, wrote the words "In a hole in the ground lived a hobbit." And, so began one of the world's most beloved books. This virtual fireside performance is innovative and entertaining.

Raconteur Radio performs theatrical presentations of vintage radio plays, classic works of literature, and pop culture parodies for audiences throughout the Tri-State area. For the foreseeable future, their live performances are going virtual. The radio plays are being recorded via a video meeting platform, and then shared before a real-time Q&A session with Raconteur Radio founder/artistic director Alex Dawson.

**For more information about this virtual radio play, contact the Monmouth County Library Reference Staff at 732-431-7220 ext. 7222.**

**(2) Free Citizenship Virtual Classes -- The Monmouth County Library, Catholic Charities and Literacy New Jersey are co-sponsoring a 12 week virtual class that prepares participants for the citizenship test.** Students in the class will also meet with an immigration attorney who can help with the N-400 application. Contact one of the four programs below to sign-up for classes:

**TUESDAYS: January 5, 2021 - April 6, 2021 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** (To register contact Literacy New Jersey Union at 908-486-1777 or [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org))

**MONDAYS: January 11, 2021 - March 29, 2021 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** (To register contact Literacy New Jersey Atlantic Cape at [kmicale@literacynj.org](mailto:kmicale@literacynj.org))

**TUESDAYS: January 12, 2021 - March 30, 2021 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** (To register contact Literacy New Jersey Mercer at [jkrish@literacynj.org](mailto:jkrish@literacynj.org))

**TUESDAYS: January 12, 2021 - March 30, 2021 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** (To register, contact Literacy New Jersey Middlesex at 732-906-5456 or at [lsergeant@literacynj.org](mailto:lsergeant@literacynj.org))

**(3) Experience Virtual Knitting and Crocheting with the "Knit Wits."** -- This group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. Registration is required, simply go to <http://bit.ly/MonCoLibraryKnitting>

You will then receive an email with the link so you can join in. Please note that the group recommends having size 8 knitting needles and yarn and you will learn to make a scarf. Please note that the group uses WEBEX teleconferencing and they encourage you to download the WEBEX app before the class so you can join on time.

**(4) If You've Suffered A Loss --** The Library is offering Bereavement Group Virtual Meetings. When you experience the loss of a loved one navigating through your emotions, making decisions, and finding a new daily rhythm can be both stressful and overwhelming. Beth Stamp, support facilitator, offers workshops which can help. The virtual meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. **Lost and Found Bereavement Support meets Wednesdays, 6:45pm. For login information and to register contact: the Monmouth County Library Reference Staff at 732-431-7220 ext. 7222 or email to: [mcl@monmouthcountylib.org](mailto:mcl@monmouthcountylib.org)**



### A Few Reminders:

**(1) Please note that until further notice The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library in-person meetings are canceled.** We will let you know when these meetings will resume.

**(2) The Township of Ocean Library has reopened with 25% limited capacity.**

(3) The library's in-person times\*\* are:

Monday - Thursday: 1 - 9 p.m.

Friday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(4) Curbside pickup\*\* is now available:

Mondays: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

No curbside service will be available on Friday or Saturday.

\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Now that winter and potentially bad weather are here, it is a good idea to check the Monmouth County Library website at <https://monmouthcountylib.org/> or call our library branch at 732-531-5092 for closures or delayed openings.

(5) If you need to use our library's computers, please remember: **THAT A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED TO USE THESE COMPUTERS. APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND YOU ARE ONLY PERMITTED ONE USE (OF NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR) PER DAY.**

You should call the Ocean Township branch library (732-531-5092) up to two days in advance to make your reservation.

Please plan on arriving no more than 10 minutes before your scheduled computer appointment. Upon arriving at the library, go to the reference desk to check in and receive permission to begin your computer session. Please also note that the hour limit must be used in a single sitting. (So for example, you can't use 10 minutes and then come back later to use up the remaining 50 minutes.)



**Help Our Community** -- Want to do your part to help our community and our state during these difficult times? Here is a simple way you can make a difference.

(1) **Combat Hunger** -- Even with the holidays behind us, food insecurity remains at unprecedented levels throughout our state due to the pandemic and resulting economic challenges. **The Monmouth and Ocean Counties Food Bank, FULFILL, is currently feeding thousands of county residents, including many children.** If you would like to help, FULFILL is accepting **non-perishable** food donations (please check expiration dates on any food you may plan to donate) in our area. **Drop offs are accepted at the FULFILL center at 3300 Route 66, Neptune, NJ, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.** If you have questions about making a donation, you can call the FULFILL center at 732-918-2600. If you prefer to make a monetary donation you can go to <https://fulfillnj.org> to give. Fulfill is a Charity Navigator 4 star charity, with 96 cents of every dollar donated going directly to our neighbors in need in the form of food and other programs.

Thanks for standing up for New Jersey!

Thank you again for your continued support of

[The Friends of The Township of Ocean Library](#)

You truly are making a difference!

We hope 2021 brings you good health and happiness.

**Please continue to take care and stay safe!**



We love hearing from you. If you have a comment about or a suggestion for our newsletter -- send an email to [friendsofcoastwplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcoastwplibrary@gmail.com)